

12-80

#144

Bingham, June 11, 1874

My dear Mr. Fiske

Madame

My desire to  
know of the last days in with of one  
highly esteemed emboldens me to ad-  
dress this morning. If I seem to in-  
trude trust you will pardon.

Amidst our open ague  
wounds but partially healed causing  
them to bleed afresh. One was there-  
ing means a friend who married my  
husband as a brother greatly beloved  
for me to pass the days in his family.  
So thither I went for the old feeling of

Lithany was creeping over me the same  
as years before when standing by an open  
grave, taking the last lingering look. I  
absorbed with the past the mind seemed  
totally unconscious of the present, for it had  
before leaving here been a fixed purpose & wish  
to visit Marshfield, some strength should  
be given to overcome emotions and not  
tumble there around me by the want of  
self control.

But I was recalled to a sense of  
duty, caused from the stupor prevailing  
very faintly by seeing in the Herald of a  
daily paper the name of your aunt. It  
seemed like an electric shock & you do not  
know what she has been to me - my more  
than friend - my guide - my counselor, now  
that I am alone as well as in the days  
of youth and inexperience.

The last letter to me bears date  
March 20th - it was more brief than usual  
she wrote as she had before, that the time



to her would be short. I think she lived life-  
hard a shrinking from death fearing that  
she was not fully prepared for so great a change.  
And do you not think the mind becomes  
mutilated from dwelling in loneliness, in the  
seclusion of one's living heart? I think from  
unsympathetic contact, have sometimes felt  
that she might.

Have but returned to this place - it  
was with the expectation of finding a letter  
from some one of her friends informing me  
of her death. But I am disappointed.

Will it be asking too much of you  
to inquire such information as I desire by letter.  
Would like to know how she was for the last  
few months - whether she was alone if not  
who cared for her and performed the last of-  
fices of love and kindness? I recollect a com-  
pation with her some years ago when her health  
was precarious - she then attached much importance  
to the site of burial. I would like to know  
who officiated on the occasion. Expected to see

some literary notice of her in the denominational paper to which she has so long been a subscriber, as well as an appreciative reader of its columns. But I have looked in vain.

I shall be interested in any thing you may feel at liberty to communicate to me who deeply mourn her departure. Last year the names of three valued correspondents, all many years younger than myself, were stored; now another whose valued pages will be greatly missed is numbered with them. In the land beyond, where there are no funeral processions, no death agonies and "no more pain" I hope to meet them all.

Yours, in Love and Sympathy  
Mary T. Copley.

Dixes South Kingham M. R.